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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/771,896	01/30/2001	Nobuyuki Mori	826.1670	2674

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EXAMINER

DADA, BEEMNET W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2135

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DATE MAILED: 06/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/771,896

Applicant(s)

MORI ET AL.

Examiner

Beemnet W Dada

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/30/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-29 have been examined.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: the word 'code' on line 10 is spelled incorrectly. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claim 1-4, 9, 15-17 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chow et al. (hereinafter Chow) (US Patent No. 6,292,092 B1).
5. As per claims 1, 24 and 27, Chow teaches a signature system presenting a receiver with signature information of a user, comprising:

an input means inputting the identification information of the user [column 4, lines 47-56 and column 2, lines 60-65]; and

an output means outputting information for generation of the signature information according to the input identification information in a format readable by a bar code reader (i.e. inputted personal information or signature or picture image data is encrypted and outputted as two dimensional bar code as authentication data) [column 4, lines 63-67, column 3, lines 1-3 and column 7, lines 57-63].

6. As per claims 9, 25 and 28, Chow teaches a signature system presenting signature information of a user to a receiver, comprising:

a reading means reading information in a bar code format [column 4, lines 47-56 and column 3, line 1] ;

and a generation means generating the signature information according to the read information [column 4, lines 63-67, column 3, lines 1-3 and column 7, lines 57-63].

7. As per claims 15, 26 and 29, Chow teaches a signature system, comprising:

input means through which a user inputs authentication information, which is significant and repeatedly reproducible by the user (i.e. personal signature or biography data) [column 4, lines 47-56 and column 2, lines 60-65].

a generating means generating blind information of authentication information (i.e. encrypting the authentication information) [column 4, lines 63-67 and column 7, lines 57-63];
and

an entry means entering the blind information in a device verifying signature information according to the authentication information [column 5, lines 9-29].

8. As per claim 2, Chow teaches the system as applied above. Furthermore, Chow teaches the system, wherein the output means encrypts and outputs the identification information [column 4, lines 63-67].

9. As per claim 3, Chow teaches the system as applied above. Furthermore, Chow teaches the system wherein said input unit inputs authentication information, which is significant and repeatedly reproducible by the user, as the identification information (i.e. personal signature or biography data) [column 4, lines 47-56 and column 2, lines 60-65].

10. As per claim 4, Chow teaches the system as applied above. Furthermore, Chow teaches the system wherein said input unit inputs image data of an image of a seal as the identification information (i.e. signature) [column 2, lines 64].

11. As per claim 16, Chow teaches the system as applied above. Furthermore, Chow teaches the system wherein the system according to claim 15, wherein said entry unit enters in the device verifying the signature a one-directional function (i.e. hash function) and an encryption key, which are used to generate the blind information and required to authenticate a user [column 5, lines 45-55].

12. As per claim 17, Chow teaches the system as applied above. Furthermore, Chow teaches the system wherein said input unit and said generation unit are provided in a terminal of the user [column 4, lines 47-54 and column 6, lines 11-17].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 5-8, and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chow (US Patent No. 6,292,092 B1) in view of Berson et al. (hereinafter Berson) (US Patent No. 5,742,685).

14. As per claims 5, 10, 11, 13 and 14 Chow teaches a signature system as applied to claims 1 and 9 above. Furthermore, Chow teaches authenticating identification information by encrypting and processing hash function [column 4, lines 63-67 and column 7, lines 57-63].

Chow does not explicitly teach generating illegal use prevention information for protecting against an illegal use. However, Berson teaches a signature system comprising, a generating means for generating illegal use prevention information for protecting against an illegal use [column 5, lines 9-17, 40-42 and 50-54]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to generate illegal use prevention information for protecting against an illegal use as per teachings of Berson and include it into authentication information taught by Chow, in order to avoid counterfeit use.

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15. As per claims 6-8, the combination of Chow and Berson teaches the system as applied above. Furthermore, Berson teaches processing using hash function (one-directional function) and encrypting authentication information [column 5, lines 9-17].

16. As per claims 12, the combination of Chow and Berson teaches the system as applied above. Furthermore, Berson teaches the system, further comprising a timer unit generating date and time information used as the illegal use prevention information [column 5, lines 9-17].

17. Claim 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chow (US Patent No. 6,292,092 B1).

18. As per claims 18-23, Chow teaches the method as applied to above. Furthermore, Chow teaches the signature system used in different authentication machines [column 6, lines 11-17], reading information in a bar code format [column 4, lines 47-56 and column 3, line 1], and a generation means generating the signature information according to the read information [column 4, lines 63-67, column 3, lines 1-3 and column 7, lines 57-63]. However Chow does not explicitly teach a user re-entering authentication information through input means. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to re-enter authentication information through input means. It would have been obvious because for subsequent transactions a user needs to re-enter (a system needs to scan) authentication information for verification.

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO form 892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beemnet W Dada whose telephone number is (703) 305-8895. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:30 am - 6:00 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Beemnet Dada

June 10, 2004

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